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Commo/Chrono

21 November 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Comments regarding Telecommunications  
Problems being considered by the President's  
Communications Policy Board

1. The attached comments were prepared in response to a request from the President's Communications Policy Board and are restricted to the broad aspects of the three basic problems involved. It should be noted that each of the three is controversial in nature:

a. Establishment of a Communications Policy Board - The proposal to provide a means for overall direction in the telecommunications field is not new. This requirement has been particularly evident since World War II. Attempts within the Government to establish methods and procedures for accomplishing this objective have resulted in a stalemate, chiefly due to unreconcilable differences of opinion as to the responsibilities of existing agencies concerned in this field.

b. Merger of Commercial Overseas Communications Companies - The subject of merger has been considered by both the executive and legislative branches of the Government. While there is general agreement by both Government and non-Government agencies on the principle involved, there is wide disagreement as to the extent of the merger to be effected—whether complete or partial, permissive or mandatory.

c. Establishment of a Diplomatic Communications Service - Insofar as known, this idea has not previously been officially advanced. However, it is anticipated that the proposal may arouse opposition. Commercial interests may visualize loss of revenue. The military may also object to this proposal on the basis that the establishment of this service would infringe upon their responsibilities.

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of the Historical Staff

Name: *W. J. [unclear]*

Date: *11/27/50*

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2. The problem of frequency assignments and subsequent administration has not been touched upon herein since it is believed to be a part of the broader problems mentioned, particularly that of establishing a Communications Policy Board.

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Assistant Director  
Special Operations

*3 cc's to Commo  
2 cc's to Adia ✓*

*(originated by  
Comms.  
rewritten by WGT)*

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*Canine*

25 November 1950

Mr. F. C. Alexander  
President's Communications Policy Board  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Alexander:

*attached*  
Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 17 November addressed to General Smith relative to National Telecommunications Policy.

*copy furnished Canine*  
On 24 November a letter from General Smith to Dr. Stewart, your Board Chairman, was dispatched, which it is believed will cover the requirements of your letter. If further information or assistance is desired, we shall be glad to help to the fullest possible extent.

The opportunity afforded this Agency to express an opinion on this important subject is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

/s/  
25X1A

Acting Executive

Copies to:

AD/50 (2) (w/basic) (1cc furnished Canine 29 Nov 50)  
Central Records  
Exec chrono

E:LTS/mc (25 Nov 50)

PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATIONS POLICY BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

November 17, 1950.

Lt. Gen. Walter B. Smith, U.S.A.,  
Director of Central Intelligence,  
2430 E Street, N. W.,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Smith:

Pursuant to our recent conversation upon the subject of National Telecommunications Policy, it will be deeply appreciated if you can now indicate to us the name of the individual within your organization that we may call upon for advice in this effort.

It will be further appreciated if the individual so named can send us a tentative outline of any specific points in the field of telecommunications upon which it is felt that there should be an enunciation of National Policy. It will also be helpful if such an outline can be amplified with suggested policy language.

In view of the limited remaining time, it will be appreciated if such material can be made available by November 27, 1950.

Sincerely yours,

  
F. C. Alexander

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of the Historical Staff

Name: W. B. Smith

Date: 11/25/50

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1F-28

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*Commo Chrono*

8 March 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Final Report on the President's Communications Policy Board.

1. The President's Communications Policy Board, which was active for 15 months, finished its work on 17 February 1951. During that period, representatives of the CIA Communications Division worked with the Board's staff in the formulation of the attached Final Report, on which the Bureau of the Budget has requested this Agency's comments.

2. The attached letter, which is recommended for your signature, sets forth comments relating to the major recommendation of the Board, which proposed the establishment of the President's Telecommunications Advisory Board as essential to providing forceful direction in the field of national telecommunications policy. It will be noted that the comments are keyed to the questions posed by the Executive Assistant to the Director in his memorandum for the undersigned, dated 1 March 1951.

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Assistant Director  
Special Operations

1 Attachment

*✓ ADSC File*

*Orig. to Actg. DCT w/ proposed  
reply for DCT's signature  
(prepared by Commo) v. Final*

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